



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

FUN . FITNESS . FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER, June 2021

warbybushwalkers.org.au

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter; highlights in this edition include a detailed report on the 2021 Week Away.

Our 43rd ANNUAL DINNER and AGM was held at the Wangaratta Club on Monday, March 29th, and was a well attended event, with about 60 members present.

Our President, Cecily Fletcher, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Cecily then acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and paid respects to their Elders both past and present.



After reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer it was moved that the annual subscriptions for 2020/2021 remain at the current rate of \$35.00 single, \$65 per family. In particular circumstances the club also offers \$25.00 single and \$45 per family.

Adrian Twitt took the chair to manage the appointment process. He thanked Cecily Fletcher for her work as president, and retiring committee members Bob Shaw and Anne Ford.

Adrian then conducted the nomination, and election, procedure for office bearers and committee members.

President, Cecily Fletcher

Secretary, Peter Brain

Treasurer, John Walker

General Committee

Michael Braendler

Sandie Church

Jeanette Farquhar

Andy Kimber

Kelvin Longhurst



Chris McLaughlin

Marita Samuelsson

Anne Turnbull

Trevor Turnbull



After the election, Cecily Fletcher resumed the chair, and thanked all retiring committee members for their work during their terms of office.

Our Guest Speaker, Simon Mullumby, was then introduced. Simon is a member of Border Bushwalkers, and is on the Board of Bush-Walking Victoria, representing North East Victoria.

One of his board roles is the Bushwalking Victoria Federation Walks Liaison officer. Simon shared with us some of the planning around the 2022 Federation Walks, scheduled for North East Victoria. The Border BushWalking Club has been appointed the host club.



Simon sought our assistance with support and walks ideas, details to be specified later. The base will be at Bright.

Simon also shared a PowerPoint presentation on the newly published Bushwalking Manual. It is a great resource for bushwalkers of all levels and ability, and is available on-line through the Bushwalking Victoria website.

Cecily thanked Simon, and conducted a question/answer session.

Andy Kimber then gave a brief report on the Warby Ovens National Park Advisory Group.

Andy provided a brief history of the development of the Warby Ovens National Park, with a focus on preservation and conservation. He indicated that the Park may gain a Green status in the near future, due to a range of specific, and unique, features of the Park.

Please remember that subscriptions fell due at the AGM, and if you haven't yet paid your subscription, please do so now.

The subscription renewal form can be found under "General Information" on our website, and at the back of this Newsletter.

Ingrams Rock, Beechworth : March 4

There were twelve walkers on this nice 9.4km adventure, and we had a brilliant sunny day, with the max temp being about 22C.

Setting off from the Powder Magazine, we stepped it out to one of several lookout points, where we had morning tea.

Continuing on, we walked up to Ingrams Rock where we spent some time admiring the views, and trying to pin-point all of the local peaks.



The next destination was Fiddess Quarry (where we had a lazy lunch), and then on to The Precipice for some more views.

From here, we climbed back up to the first part of the outgoing route, ready for the return to our cars.

Afternoon tea was held in the shade, near the Powder Magazine, and then we drifted off – some headed home, others went shopping in Beechworth's beautifully preserved town centre.

We rated this walk as 'moderate', and really enjoyed the first of the club's Autumn 2021 walks. [Chris]

Weekend of walks, Bright : March 12-14

The weekend of March 12th to 14th enabled walkers to participate in a weekend at Bright, staying at Camp Crusty. The planned walks involved the serene Wandiligong Walk, the suitably titled Canyon Walk, the questionably named Cherry Walk, and the moderate ascent to Apex Lookout.

Saturday was a sunny day, with a temperature of about 28 de-

grees, however, as we would learn the increasing humidity made things a little uncomfortable. The walk along Morse's Creek is beautiful, with surrounding native bush complementing numerous water holes. The gentle pace of the group made for the latest morning tea ever, at about 11.30 am in the Alpine Park at Wandi.



After some welcome refreshments, we headed towards the Chinese Swing Bridge, where some practised our translation skills. From here we walked a little further before passing a historic digging, and then making a final short ascent to the Wandi Pub. A leisurely appetising lunch was appreciated by all. We proceeded to head back, this time following the main road, so that parts of the historic town walk could be included.

A brief stop at a craft gallery then saw the group separate somewhat. A little reminiscent of a group of brown cows heading in different directions. Rather than do the return walk, Helen and Ellen decided to wait at the Park to be picked up later.

On this occasion, their knight in shining armour was not on a white stallion, but in a shiny white Subaru, and named Murray. All ended well, and the 10.5km hike and lunch was completed in five hours.

The Saturday night BBQ was held outdoors at the nearby sports ground where fun, fellowship and frivolities were undertaken.

As the sun began to set, a few drops of rain began to fall, and it was soon time for all to retire for the evening. This time there was no talk of a cooked breakfast in the morning.

Sunday morning's assembly began 9am at Howitt Park, in town, next to the river. Anne led 16 walkers on the Canyon Walk in cool, but sunny conditions. From our starting point, this trail passed all of the fun water activities for children towards the Star Bridge.



From the bridge, the paved trail evolved into the beginning of a walking track that gently meandered up and down through the canyon. Numerous water races were observed cut into the rock along the way, as we followed the river on our right-hand side.



The majority of the group continued a little further, to reach the Porepunkah rail trail bridge for views over the river.

Re-joining the other walkers, it was time to cross the swing bridge, and complete the return walk back to Howitt Park. One section of the track led us right down to the river's edge, and it was obvious this was a popular spot for all visitors.

From here the group once again did its best impersonation of brown cows, but somehow, as before, did all eventually end up at the original starting point.

It was 11.30pm before we commenced the Cherry Walk. Why is it called the Cherry Walk? Nothing to do with cherries as we discovered, but named after a local family that lived nearby.

This walk also followed the river closely, but without much deviation in elevation. We crossed the river shortly after commencing the walk to be walking on the northern side of the trail. The early morning chill had disappeared, and the blue skies and sunshine were most welcome.

They were also welcomed by a red belly black snake, which half of the group ahead of me had passed only moments earlier. The tail-end walkers took some opportune photos of the snake, before continuing on to catch up to the first part of the group.

From this point we soon reached another bridge, to take us to the other side of the river, which would lead us back. As with the Canyon Walk, there are numerous story boards up for the inquisitive to read.



After a pleasant walk of some 3km we reached Howitt Park again. It was decided we would have lunch here before proceeding to the Apex Lookout. For this final walk of the weekend, we were down to seven participating walkers. However, what we lacked in sheer quantity, was made up for in superb quality. The Magnificent Seven.

Apex Lookout begins with a short drive along Mount Porepunkah Road to Quins Gap, and is a steady climb for most of the way. Through the trees at various points worthy views of Bright, and neighbouring forest plantations could be observed. Upon reaching the top we were rewarded with fantastic views of Mount Feather-top and Mount Bogong, with distant clear blue skies as their backdrop.

This return walk of 3km long, for which 1.5 hours is generally allowed, took us about an hour to reach the summit, and twenty minutes to return, while still enjoying a suitable break at the top. With the final walk concluded, it was time for this group of walkers to bid farewell.

The weekend walks at Bright were generally easy, and the complementary weather during the days made it one of the most enjoyable weekends away. Thanks to Anne for her organising of the weekend, and to all who came and participated. [Michael]

Federation Walk 2021

As mentioned in the Walks Program (and the last Newsletter) this year's Federation Walk will be held in the Victorian High Country to the north of Licola, a small village on the banks of the Macalister River.

The base for the walk will be the Licola Wilderness Village, in cabins containing 3 or 4 bedrooms, with bunk-style accommodation.

An all-inclusive package (including meals) will be available as part of the registration process).

To book in with our club, contact Adrian on 5721 5327; email, ahntwitt@gmail.com , or Cecily on 0490 024 471; email, fletchers@southernphone.com.au , by 25th July in order to secure accommodation.

More details can be found at fedwalks.org.au

Popular walks in the area include Bryce Gorge, Pieman Falls, Moroka Gorge, Vallejo Ganther Memorial Hut, Mount Howitt, The Crinoline (see photo) and Lake Tali Karng.

This was to have been the Federation Walk in 2020, but was held over because of the covid-19 pandemic. Next year's venue is North-east Victoria!!

Nine Mile Historic Area : April 11

Ten hardy souls, and Bertie (the pooch), braced the cold at Stanley for the Nine Mile Historic Area walk of approximately 15km; it was time for thermals, beanies and gloves.

The walk started with a steep descent down to the Wallaby Mine glory hole, restored battery stamp, and mine shafts.

We then left this area along a narrow grassy track towards the Wallaby Track, reaching an open area opposite the Rechabite Mine; Some of the group then crossed Nine Mile Creek to explore further.

After the Rechabite Mine, the route became uphill, and downhill, following Reserve Spur Track to Lower Nine Mile Road, where

Sandie found the perfect spot for morning tea, complete with fallen logs for seating.

Continuing on to Jenkins Track, we climbed the steep section of Jenkins Track (110 metres over 600 metres) after which Pat rewarded us with jelly snakes, before descending along a bush track to the Karrs Reef Mine for lunch.



Returning to the loop part of our walk involved the steep descent of the earlier ascent. The route then continued along Rocky Point Track, and Lower Nine Mile Road to reach the end of our walk.

Pat's welcome afternoon tea was enjoyed in the warmest part of the day; it was now all of 8 degrees!

[Jeanette]

WEEK-AWAY 2021, Mornington Peninsula

This year's Week Away (postponed from 2020, due to covid-19) ran from April 17 to 21, and was attended by 34 club members.

A variety of easy, medium and hard walks were offered daily, under the leadership of our expert walks coordinator, Robert Chard.

Anne Turnbull and Erin Pascoe organised the catering superbly, and the overall organisers were the calm natured Cheryl Hoysted and Marita Samuelsson.



Our accommodation base was Bayplay Iluka Resort and Camping at Shoreham, where we had exclusive use of the two lodges.

These lodges provided simple school group style, un-serviced amenities, with large common room space, excellent for our evening gatherings, including an open fire.



The grounds of the Resort has wetlands, wildlife and an obstacle course amongst the treescape.

Parking was immediately outside each lodge, and a supermarket was a 10 minute drive for supplies.

The location proved easily accessible for fantastic walks, with an eye to weather influences, as researched and planned by Robert Chard, with input from Anne and Trevor Turnbull, who have family connections in the area. We created user pays the driver at the end of the days' car shuffles, to get to our walking set off points, each of four days.

Every walk had an easy, medium and hard version and many stunning photos, courtesy of Sandie Church, are proudly displayed on Facebook, of some of the terrain we covered.

Day 1 focused around Arthur's Seat, to Baldry's Road, to Bushrangers Bay

Day 2 was Bushrangers Bay to Cape Schank, and for the hard walkers this included Fingal Beach

Day 3 was overcast and raining and a hardy few chose to walk the Back Beach ocean area near Sorrento, returning wet and happy, while the rest of us explored galleries, eateries, cafes, a spa, and generally enjoyed ourselves.

Day 4 was Red Hill to Merrick's and return, or Point Leo to Red Hill, via Merrick's Beach.

Day 5 we travelled to the Point Nepean National Park and were able to see and explore for the first time, for many, this fascinating place which has been a restricted area due to buried ordinance, for many years.

The history of the quarantine area, and further along, the army barracks and tunnels, are absolutely worth familiarizing with, plus it is a beautiful, windy and wild place. Just watching the shipping negotiating the Rip and feeling like you could nearly touch Point Lonsdale was fun.

All our walkers arrived armed with the resolve to have a great time, and met in the larger lodge common room, for drinks and finger food nibbles each evening.

There were high decibels of excited noise around socializing with familiar and new friends, plus the chance to continue conversations started during the day's walks, all while sitting toasting our toes near the open fire.

The catering teams, organized by Anne Turnbull and Erin "Nibbles

Queen" Pascoe, were super-efficient, providing the filling shared meals, and kitchen staples supplies for both lodges.

The last night we travelled 10 minutes to the Balnarring Hotel, for an excellent dinner, with much recall, laughter and ribbing.



Overall, a very successful event—Many Thanks to the organisers, and walks leaders.

Mount McLeod : May 1

Two different groups headed towards Mount McLeod on this high country (Mount Buffalo Plateau) adventure; the day walk group had 12 attendees, with participants from as far away as Deniliquin, Yarrawonga and Corowa, and there were four of us on the overnight camp.

However, both groups took the 'shortcut' that is close to the start of the walk, as an alternate route in lieu of the Mt McLeod Fire Track. This shortcut is a picturesque bush track, with fern gullies, and a creek crossing mostly managed with a small leap.



Once at the campsite, the day walkers enjoyed lunch before attempting the climb to Mt McLeod, where (unfortunately) the views were marred by the smoke haze from burning off that weekend.

The four overnight walkers (with packs, en-route to the campsite), met up with the day-walkers as they returned from Mount McLeod, and after a quick catch-up, both groups continued on their separate ways.

At Mount McLeod, the "overnighters" set up camp, with the Taj Mahal of tents taking pride of place in the camp.

Dinner was enjoyed under the starlight, followed by a swig of ground softener prior to retreating for the night.

The stars and moon lit up the night sky, and after a hot brekky, in chilly conditions, Mt McLeod was climbed, with a rock scramble to reach the top. The 360 degree views were once again marred by the smoke haze from fuel reduction burns.

The camp was packed up, and the return trek began, following the Mt McLeod Fire Track all the way. A late lunch at Crystal Brook then ended this Grade 3 walk (Australian Walking Track Grading System; see our website for details of this). [Jeanette]

Rivers and Billabongs, Wangaratta : May 5

On this interesting wetland walk, eight walkers headed off from the corner of Phillipson Street and Cambridge Drive, towards the Ovens River, and then proceeded to walk leisurely upstream for about six kilometres.



We also circled around the superbly restored Mullinmur Billabong area, where brand new explanatory boards give the visitor an insight into the now protected natural systems.

Some of the explanatory boards also have sketch maps, and these indicate the various combinations that can be enjoyed

Locals do not have to travel far now, to enjoy the delights of our special river from the well developed tracks and paths, stretching from behind Cambridge Drive, right through to Apex Park along the Northern Beaches Track, the Bullawah Trail, and then back along the King River.

Our group surveyed the great work of the Rural City revegetation experts, and Landcare volunteers, over the last few years, and spent time identifying various native plants which have recently reappeared. [Andy]

Mount Glenrowan, Warby Ranges : May 16

This was an interesting variation on a tried-and-true venue, involving a loop down to Moonlight Track via Casuarina Track on the way to Mount Glenrowan.

On a very cool morning, we met at Rotary Park at 8.30am, organised car pooling, headed off to Taminick Gap, and started walking at about 8.50am.



There were seven of us on this medium-hard adventure, and the distance planned for the walk was about 14 kilometres.

Setting off, we walked along Ridge Track, to the Casuarina Track turn-off, where we headed west, and then started an off-track descent down to Moonlight Track.

A few kilometres on this scenic pathway took us to a collection of rocks, where we had a quick morning tea (too cold for loitering).

We then followed Moonlight Track to where it swings to the east, and starts a steep climb up to Ridge Track. On the way we came across a prosperous looking wombat – doing what wombats usually do, but usually at night time.

Having made it to Ridge Track, we followed this through to Morgans Lookout (Mount Glenrowan) where we enjoyed our lunch in scenic surroundings.

Returning back to the cars via Ridge Track, Michael introduced us to an interesting detour that leads off to the left, skirting around the west side of the main track. We had walked past this track opening many times, but never had the motivation to check it out.

Despite murmurings about that famous quote from Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy ("Abandon hope, all ye who enter here") we emerged safely back onto Ridge Track, having enjoyed an interesting single-file pathway.



We then continued along Ridge Track for the remaining 1.4km to the start, passing the entrance to Casuarina Track on the way.

After a quick afternoon tea at the car park, we headed back to town, and were home by 2.30pm.

Weather for the day gave us early morning fog in the surrounding valleys, and it was mostly cloudy, with some bursts of sunshine, the maximum temperature being about 12C.

[Chris M]

White Box Walking Track : May 30

This walk was cancelled, due to the covid-19 lockdown, instigated on May 28; stay tuned for another date!

Long Weekend in September

For this AFL Grand Final weekend (Friday, 24th to Sunday, 26th September) Boroondara Bushwalkers will be in Wangaratta, for a long weekend in the Warby Ranges. They are planning a series of wildflower walks, and will advise their venues closer to the time. The Warby Bushwalkers will be having a dinner with the Boroondara Bushwalkers (at the Wangaratta Club, on the Saturday night), and everyone is invited to attend this event.

Prior to the dinner, we will be hosting a Walk Leaders workshop, the first of several such events.

The workshop will provide a general overview of pre-walk briefings, with a focus on orientation for new/casual walkers. It is also an opportunity for feedback, questions, and sharing thoughts about possible destinations, and future topics for discussion.

This workshop is open to any members interested in familiarisation with walks leaders guidelines and responsibilities, and developing peer support for newer leaders.

More details from Chris, 0418 503 802.

The Heysen Trail

The Heysen Trail is a long distance (1200km) walking trail in South Australia, it extends from Cape Jervis, on the Fleurieu Peninsula, to Parachilna Gorge, in the Flinders Ranges, traversing coastal areas, native bushland, rugged gorges, pine forests, vineyards, rich farmland and historic towns.



It caters for both the serious backpacker, hiking the entire trail, and for walkers doing day walks along shorter sections.

The trail is named after the famed South Australian painter, Hans Heysen, and the project to build this great asset was commenced in the 1970s.

The trail is documented on the Friends of the Heysen Trail web-

site (heysentrail.asn.au) as well as via two guide books (the southern and northern sections) and a series of eight maps, all of which are available for purchase on the above website.



Cartographics also has these items (and many others) for sale.— see their website (cartographics.com.au).

Given the length of the trail, variety of scenery is a strong point, with a change from the coastal areas, to the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Barossa Valley, to the open farmland around the historic towns of the drier areas, and the very rugged Flinders Ranges.

Over the past 20 years we have walked all of the coastal sections of the trail, as well as a selection of the inland sections, and finally (in April of this year) the Flinders Ranges section.

Which is the most enjoyable? Well, our vote goes to the Flinders Ranges; the combination of spectacular scenery, fascinating wildlife, and walking along dry creek beds really impressed us.



If you want to enjoy all, or part, of this great adventure, the Friends of the Trail have a year-round calendar of walk events along the Trail.

These include different grades of walk, catering for people of different fitness levels, as well as the full length of this great adventure.

[Chris and Yve]

Quick Quiz

1. Which National Park is home to the Barrk Walk?
2. How long is the Great Ocean Walk?
3. In what year did our walking club conduct its first walk?
4. Name the three capes that make up the Three Capes Walk in Tasmania.
5. Where is the Cape to Cape Walk?
6. Where is the Grand Strzelecki Track?
7. Where are Barry Falls?
8. Which explorers named Mount Buffalo?
9. What is the name of Australia's highest lake?
10. Which alpine route has the initials FHAC?
11. Who wrote the guide book to the Larapinta Trail?
12. What is the name of the lookout at Mount Glenrowan?
13. The Lavender-Federation Trail links which two South Australian towns.
14. Where is the Montagne Walk?
15. Where is the Light-to-Light Walk?
16. Where is the Bibbulmun Trail?
17. Where are the Mullinmur Billabongs?
18. Where is Klingsporns Track?
19. Where is Bryce Canyon?
20. Where is The Crinoline?
21. In which state are The Budawang?
22. In which state is The Scenic Rim?
23. Which memorial do you walk past on the way up to Mount Bogong?
24. In which state would you "Walk the Yorke"?
25. Where is the Lost City walk?
26. Where is Warby Corner?
27. Which geographical feature on the Bogong High Plains is named after a fruit?
28. Where is The Monolith?
29. Blair Hut is alongside which alpine river?
30. What do the initials AWTGS stand for?

The answers to these tricky question will be on the website in a few days time.

How did you score?



SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2021/22

Name(s)

Address

.....Postcode

Telephone Mobile

Email

Type of Membership (Please circle)

Single (\$35) Family (\$65) Associate (\$10)

Life members receiving Newsletter (\$10)

Casual (\$5) 1st Walk

Subsequent Walk No. (maximum of 3 before joining)

Notes:

Fee is \$20 for Single, or \$40 for Family if joining after 1st October in any year.

If joining after 1st February in any year full subscription is payable giving 14 months' membership.

Associate membership provides Club Newsletter & social event entry, but does not cover walks.

Please return this form to PO Box 974, Wangaratta 3676 with payment - either:

cheque to Warby Range Bushwalkers Inc

cash - or

our preferred method - Bank Transfer:

BSB 633 000 Account No. 110647799 Reference (Your name).